



MEDIA RELEASE

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Rockford, IL America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2014 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Philadelphia, PA on October 4.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, “America in Bloom is helping participants of all types achieve their potential. Every year our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is again remarkable.”

All participants were evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays. Additionally they were judged on their community involvement across municipal, residential, and commercial sectors. America in Bloom is the only national awards program that sends specially trained judges to personally visit participants and provide a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

Evelyn Alemanni and Stephen Pategas, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the over 50,000 population category were Fayetteville, AR; Lexington, KY, and Greater Racine, WI.

Rockford received a four bloom rating and a special mention for its efforts in historic preservation.

The judges said, “Rockford is a city with a bent towards historic preservation with residents, philanthropic groups and an historic preservation commission that has supported restoration, the creation of districts and reuse of structures.

This great history includes restoration - Coronado Theatre and Morgan Street Bridge and adaptive reuse projects in progress - Prairie Street Brew House and Lantow Lofts and two exciting ones on the cusp – a sports complex and downtown hotel.

Multiple residential historic districts and numerous historic associations guard the area’s heritage.”

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Congratulations to Rockford!

Registrations for the 2015 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2015. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancement.

For more information, visit www.americainbloom.org.

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